



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
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DECISION ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON 13 JANUARY 1993

At its 51st meeting, held on 13 January 1993, the Committee on the Rights of the Child decided, in accordance with rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure, to make available for general distribution the text of the Declaration of Lima adopted on 10 December 1992 at the First Latin American Meeting of Non-Governmental Committees to Monitor the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The text of the Declaration is contained in the annex to the present document.

Annex

DECLARATION OF LIMA



Gathered in the city of Lima, Peru, at the First Latin American Meeting to Monitor the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, held from 8 to 10 December 1992, we, the representatives of 13 National Coordinating Bodies to Monitor the Implementation of the Convention in Latin America, and the representatives of five regional supporting organizations, aiming to assess the reports submitted to the United Nations Committee and the progress and limitations in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the region, believe it necessary to state to children and adolescents, to the Latin American peoples, to international cooperation and finance organizations, to Governments, and to the members of the Committee, the following:

1. That the efforts to implement the Convention in the region are seriously affected by the consequences of the economic adjustment policies implemented by Governments;
2. That, notwithstanding the formal recognition of the Convention, the agreements reached at the World Summit for Children, and the formulation of National Plans of Action for the Child, there is not always a real, concrete political will on the part of Governments to fulfil their commitments;
3. That not all Governments or groups with political and economic power have stated their intention or carried out any actions to reverse the conditions of social injustice and hardship that Latin American children face. This fact, which is serious in itself, becomes even more discouraging in view of the growing poverty and the relegation which affect the most vulnerable sectors of society;
4. That the ratification of the Convention, the formulation of other plans of action and international commitments have in no substantial way solved the age-old exclusion and marginalization of children and adolescents in society;
5. That to be subjects of law, they must be subjects of society and this capacity is denied to most Latin American children and adolescents;
6. That in spite of this situation, there is hope in the potential commitment of civil society as manifested in enormous continent-wide efforts to promote, defend and protect the rights of the child;
7. That the most encouraging element in this popular commitment lies in the signs of organization by children and adolescents who struggle not only to survive but also to develop their own identity.

Therefore, the undersigned ask:

1. The United Nations Committee:

To request Governments to comply with the established deadlines for submitting and circulating official reports on the implementation of the Convention;

To use all necessary channels to gather information from non-governmental organizations to supplement or correct official reports;

To make civil organizations, and not only the diplomatic representation of each country, aware of its conclusions and recommendations regarding the reports;

To recognize, support and grant official consultative status to national and/or regional non-governmental coordination bodies which monitor the implementation of the Convention;

2. Grass-roots organizations:

To commit themselves still more actively to implementing the Convention;

To promote, recognize and strengthen initiatives by children and adolescents to organize themselves;

To participate in national and regional coordination efforts to monitor the implementation of the Convention;

3. Other organized sectors of civil society and the media:

To promote and comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

To display solidarity in supporting the initiatives of grass-roots, children's and adolescents' organizations.

Finally, we propose to children and adolescents that they demand from the adult world the legitimate room to organize and mobilize as the only way to guarantee the enforcement, respect and defence of their rights. For our part, we commit ourselves to supporting them in the struggle to achieve conditions for a more dignified life.

Lima, 10 December 1992

For the Regional Support Collective to Monitor the Convention:

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Francisco Espert	UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office
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Member Regional Organizations:

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For the Non-governmental Committees:

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